

Amendment to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A slasher comprising:

a moistening unit for moistening warp yarns by sprinkling water on the warp;
a squeezing unit for squeezing the moistened warp yarns; and
a sizing unit for sizing the moistened and squeezed the warp yarns.

2.(Currently Amended) The slasher according to claim 1, wherein the moistening unit ~~adjusts water sprinkling~~ is operable to adjust the rate at which water is sprinkled on the warp yarns according to operating conditions.

3.(Previously Presented) The slasher according to claim 1, wherein the moistening unit sprinkles water on the warp yarns by spraying water through one or plural nozzles.

4.(Currently Amended) The slasher according to claim 2, wherein the moistening unit includes a plurality of nozzle groups each having a plurality of nozzles arranged along a width of the warp yarns, and the nozzle groups are controlled individually.

5.(Currently Amended) The slasher according to claim 4, wherein the nozzles of each of the nozzle groups of the moistening unit are arranged at intervals different from

those at which the nozzles of the other nozzle group are arranged, and water ~~is~~ can be supplied at different pressures to the nozzle groups, respectively.

6.(Previously Presented) The slasher according to claim 3, wherein the one or plural nozzles are movable toward and away from the warp yarns.

7.(Previously Presented) The slasher according to claim 3, wherein the moistening unit includes a movable moistening adjusting member disposed between the nozzles and the warp yarns.

8.(Currently Amended) The slasher according to claim 1, wherein the moistening unit ~~sprinkles~~ is operable to sprinkle hot water on the warp of the warp yarns.

9.(Previously Presented) The slasher according to claim 2, wherein the moistening unit sprinkles water on the warp yarns by spraying water through one or plural nozzles.

10.(Currently Amended) The slasher according to claim 3, wherein the moistening unit includes a plurality of nozzle groups each having a plurality of nozzles arranged along a width of the warp yarns, and the nozzle groups are controlled individually.

11.(Previously Presented) The slasher according to claim 4, wherein the one or plural nozzles are movable toward and away from the warp yarns.

12.(Previously Presented) The slasher according to claim 5, wherein the one or plural nozzles are movable toward and away from the warp yarns.

13.(Previously Presented) The slasher according to claim 4, wherein the moistening unit includes a movable moistening adjusting member disposed between the nozzles and the warp yarns.

14.(Previously Presented) The slasher according to claim 5, wherein the moistening unit includes a movable moistening adjusting member disposed between the nozzles and the warp yarns.

15.(Previously Presented) The slasher according to claim 6, wherein the moistening unit includes a movable moistening adjusting member disposed between the nozzles and the warp yarns.

16.(Currently Amended) The slasher according to claim 2, wherein the moistening unit sprinkles is operable to sprinkle hot water on the warp of the warp yarns.

17.(Currently Amended) The slasher according to claim 3, wherein the moistening unit sprinkles is operable to sprinkle hot water on the warp of the warp yarns.

18.(Currently Amended) The slasher according to claim 4, wherein the moistening unit sprinkles is operable to sprinkle hot water on the warp of the warp yarns.

19.(Currently Amended) The slasher according to claim 5, wherein the moistening unit sprinkles is operable to sprinkle hot water on the warp of the warp yarns.

20.(Currently Amended) The slasher according to claim 6, wherein the moistening unit sprinkles is operable to sprinkle hot water on the warp of the warp yarns.

21.(Currently Amended) The slasher according to claim 7, wherein the moistening unit sprinkles is operable to sprinkle hot water on the warp of the warp yarns.

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22.(New) The slasher according to claim 1, wherein the moistening unit is operable to sprinkle water downwardly onto the warp.